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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.6.2026)

As noted in the Guidance on the right of free movement of EU citizens and their families¹, the Commission considers that processing times for visa applications of non-EU family members exceeding 15 days should be exceptional and duly justified and delays of more than four weeks are not reasonable.

Since 2016, the Commission has been in dialogue with the Irish authorities regarding the processing times for visas requested by family members of EU citizens. Regular meetings are held to discuss the situation. The Commission welcomes the efforts and commitment of the Irish authorities to remedy the situation.

The Commission continues to monitor the correct transposition and implementation of the Free Movement Directive² by Ireland.

¹ OJ C, C/2023/1392, 22.12.2023, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1392/oj>.

² Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States, OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, pp. 77–123.